

February 12, 2008

Mr. Tim Kelley
Illinois Department of Natural Resources
700 S. 10th Street
Havana, IL 62644

Dear Mr. Kelley:

Enclosed are two hard copies and a computer diskette containing the Final Report on WPF Grant 08-018W. Also enclosed are copies of the *Illinois Audubon* magazine article about the Sanctuary and the Adams newsletter, both include an acknowledgment of the Wildlife Preservation Fund grant. I faxed a press release to Chris Young at the State Journal-Register on 7/9/07 and e-mailed him 11/21/07 to ask that the notice be included in the Outdoors section. On 1/7/08 I made a third request. So far I haven't seen it printed.

As you can see from the report, insurance issues and the need for guidelines from the IDNR made postponing the planned fall prairie burn necessary. We are hopeful that a controlled burn can be scheduled this spring. I'll ask Tom Lerczak to let you know when one planned. You're welcome to come and help!

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Susan Shaw
Director

Enclosures:

Illinois Audubon article
Adams Sanctuary newsletter
copies of press releases to State Journal-Register
copy of the Payment Request (already submitted)
copy of invoice for equipment purchased (already submitted)
copy of grant information from Rotary South (already submitted)
2 copies of report
diskette

WPF GRANT 08-018W

The Illinois Audubon Society's Adams Wildlife Sanctuary

PO Box 20106

Springfield, IL 62708

217-544-2473

Project: Purchase of Burn Equipment

Adams Wildlife Sanctuary is an approximately 30-acre sanctuary located on Clear Lake Avenue in a residential/commercial area of Springfield. The Sanctuary is mostly woods -- fast growing trees that reclaimed the Adams orchard when Miss Margery stopped taking care of it in the 1930's. There is a small 2 acre prairie restoration that was planned and planted by volunteer Bill Zierath in 1985-6. Periodic controlled burns are conducted to maintain the prairie. Without fire, invasive shrubs (including blackberries and multiflora rose), trees, and nonnative "weeds" would eventually take over the area.

Controlled burns are conducted by Natural Areas Preservation Specialist Thomas Lerczak and a team consisting of mainly IDNR and IEPA employees with burn experience. Less experienced volunteers walk the perimeter with swatters and rakes.

In consultation with Thomas Lerczak, Adams Wildlife Sanctuary Director Susan Shaw prepared a list of fire safety clothing and equipment that would be most useful in conducting controlled burns. The Sanctuary already had four swatters and a fire pump, but obviously needed additional equipment to outfit a burn team. A Springfield store with the imaginative name Guns n Hoses sells police and fire supplies. Store owner Paul Byers is a local firefighter who was able to find the desired equipment at good prices. He is also supplied the name of the contact person at the Springfield Fire Department to arrange for a fire truck to be on site during a burn.

Based on input from Tom and Paul, the Sanctuary purchased:

- 3 Indian Tank plastic backpack pumps
- 7 Fire helmets
- 2 Fiberglass fire rakes
- 5 Wildlife suits -- sizes Medium through XXLarge

Unfortunately, the question of insurance and liability was raised at one of the Illinois Audubon Society's other sanctuaries. Even though the major problem that we've encountered at Adams is trying to get an effective fire in a shaded area, a prairie burn has been put on hold until spring. The Society is hoping that new legislation will clarify liability. When we get the okay, we're ready to conduct a controlled burn thanks to the grants from the Wildlife Preservation Fund and the Rotary Club of Springfield South. Adams Wildlife Sanctuary relies on volunteers to do needed site maintenance. We want to keep the volunteers safe and happy!